

After the Cuban conference Mother decided to apply for another country. This led her to Buenos Aires, Argentina and later, Tokyo, Japan.

June 21, 1928, Havana - Now Kathie, I guess you think that I was not in earnest about going but now that you know I am, don't you think it is all right to go? You know what Mother will do, set up an awful howl, but Kathie if I were a boy I would be in the Navy long ago or something and she would probably see me very seldom.

After Mother's death we siblings reunited with Daddy in Houston.

Mother's wedding rings glistened from atop the den television. They looked empty and quiet to her children who had watched and loved her busy hands for decades.

Daddy had given Mother the Naval Academy graduation ring in miniature when they married 37 years earlier. The words, "Sweet Thing," were inscribed inside. Later when the token stone fell out, Mother laughed and filled the gap with colored candle wax. Many candle-wax refills later my father had the space filled with a silver monogrammed "B".

After Daddy's death 11 years later I put the rings on my own fingers and for a decade the silver circles have bonded me to memories of my parent's enduring relationship.

Her Marripen

Oct. 30, 1929, Buenos Aires - And every time I get a letter from Mother it makes me feel like I'm the most selfish girl in the world. What will I do? I guess I'll just have to give up any idea of ever getting married because I can't tell anybody that he will have to support my Mother too and I can't leave her without enough money, and yet I would always feel bitter towards her if I was cheated out of the kind of happiness that you and Roger know. Well, I sure would appreciate Roger's advice about how much money to send home and whether things are as bad as Mother's letter makes me feel they are. I get sick to my stomach when I stop to think of it, of her being all alone, and everything, but I'm alone too and in a strange country.